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The State of the Case concerning the Election at Bridgwater. 131

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Polled { for Mr. Balch 85.
for Mr. Gardner 86.

The Case stands by the Poors Rate as under, viz.

M R. Balch has in the Poors Book	82	Mr. Gardner has in the Poors Book	84
and claims John Trott married to a		Viz.	
Widow, but the Certificate not compared		In the Poors Book by Name	81
with the Register. However I add him.	1	Charles Bell married a Widow, rated to	1
	83	the Poor, and allowed.	1
		John Glas, his Estate is rated in the Poors	1
		Book with his Brothers.	1
		John Mills, objected against for not being	
		full 21 years old; but being of Age to be	1
		Executor, I think is of Age to give a Vote.	1
			84
From which must be deducted			
William Symons, who has no Estate rated			
to the Poor, and stands in the Poors Book			
thus, William Symons or Occupier; and he is			
neither Owner nor Occupier.	1		
William Chance, bribed by the Promise of	2	And William Pym would have Voted for	
paying his reckoning to Vote for Mr. Balch,		Mr. Gardner, but was kept all Night in Mr.	
and declared would otherwise have Voted		Balch's House, and Mr. Balch promised to	
for Mr. Gardner.	1	give him a Life in a House, and strike him	
	81	out of the Poors Rate.	1
			85

But though Mr. Gardner has the Majority by the Poors Book, I think all that pay other Taxes ought to be accounted Scot and Lot-Men, and not lose their Right: It is usually said, when Men do not pay Taxes, they go Scot-free.

Accounting those to be Scot and Lot-Men, who pay other Taxes as well as the Poors Rate, the Case stands thus:

For Mr. Balch	85	For Mr. Gardner	86
From which must be deducted,		All proved to have paid to other Taxes before	
Viz.		the Election.	
Edward Raymond, who pays to no			
Taxes, and had no Estate in the Burrough		It would be a hard and very discouraging	
rateable.	1	thing not to allow those Votes as Scot and Lot-	
William Symons pays not to the Poor,		Men who pay the King's Taxes: And note, the	
nor any other Tax, only is Administrator		the Poors Rate is altered oftentimes once in	
to a small Estate in right of his Aunt.	1	Three Months time, and may be done every	
Francis Gatcomb, at the time of the E-	5	Month, if the Magistrates and Overseers please;	
lection was not rated to the Poor, or any		so that the Poors Rate only is a very uncertain	
other Taxes,	1	way, and may be made use of to serve particular	
John Trott, his Marriage not duly pro-		Designs; however, Mr. Gardner has it both	
ved, the Certificate not being compared		ways.	
with the Register	1		
William Chance, bribed	1		
	80		

Note, The keeping William Pym in Mr. Balch's House all Night, and his Promise of giving him a Life in a House, and striking him out of the Poors Rate; also the Promise made to William Chance of paying his Reckoning for him, were proved by the Persons themselves: What was endeavoured to be fixed on Mr. Gardner, as it was false in it self, so it was only hearsay by which no Man can or ought to be charged.